

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-22. (Cancelled)
23. (Currently amended) A method for the isolation of polysaccharides, wherein the following steps are carried out:
- (a) mixing of a bacterial polysaccharide fraction with a detergent solution;
  - (b) addition of alcohol to a final concentration at which endotoxins are precipitated and which is below the concentration at which the polysaccharide precipitates;
  - (c) mixing the solution;
  - (d) filtering the solution by way of a deep bed filter, wherein the endotoxins are separated and remain in the filter;
  - (e) separation of the polysaccharide from detergent and alcohol.
24. (Previously added) The method of claim 23, wherein the alcohol is ethanol.
25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, further wherein the separation of the polysaccharide from detergent and alcohol is carried out by the precipitation of the polysaccharide by adding more alcohol.
26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the polysaccharides are capsule polysaccharides ~~stem~~ from gram-negative bacteria.
27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the gram-negative bacteria are selected from the genus genera consisting of Haemophilus, Neisseria, Klebsiella and Escherichia.
28. (Previously added) The method of claim 23, wherein the detergent is an anionic surfactant.

29. (Previously amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the anionic surfactant is an alkyl sulfate.

30. (Previously added) The method of claim 28, wherein the surfactant concentration in the solution added to the polysaccharide fraction in step (a) is at the most 20% (w/w/).

31. (Previously added) The method of claim 30, wherein the surfactant concentration in the polysaccharide solution is 0.1% to 4% (final concentration, w/w).

32. (Previously added) The method of claim 23, wherein in step (b) the alcohol is added to the solution to a final concentration which is approximately 10% below the concentration at which the polysaccharide precipitates.

33. (Previously added) The method of claim 23, wherein the initial concentration of polysaccharides in the polysaccharide fraction is greater than 10 mg/ml.

34. (Previously added) The method of claim 23, wherein the filtration is carried out by means of a polymer filter.

35. (Previously amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the polymer filter and/or the deep bed filter is a polypropylene filter.

36. (Previously added) The method of claim 26, wherein the gram-negative bacteria is selected from the group consisting of Haemophilus influenzae (type b), Klebsiella pneumoniae, Neisseria meningitidis and Escherichia coli.